

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday September 13th at Pear Tree Cottage, Skirwith.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chair
Carol Dougherty	Membership Secretary
Martin Railton	Research
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Tony Greenwood	Publicity
Stephen Walker	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Martin Joyce

Notes of the last meeting

The notes were agreed as a correct record (but see 6/9/12.)

1/9/12 Matters arising

1/5/12

- Talk to the 5th and 6th forms at the Grammar School: Trish is currently on holiday and had agreed to follow this up on her return. (**Richard/Phyl**)
- Richard had contacted Dot Boughton to see if she could offer any advice but had not yet received a reply. (**Post meeting note: Richard has now received a reply, which basically advises us to work with the YAC, Dot no longer has enough time to work in schools. Richard will contact Kendal museum.**)
- Martin R updated the meeting on the progress of the Facebook page. As of today, there were 27 'likes' which means that all those people will automatically receive posts and updates to the page. For the Group size, this isn't bad but it really needs more activity, including more from non-committee members, in order to reach a critical mass. It was agreed to put the Facebook reference on publicity material including posters. (**Tony**)

2/9/12 Membership

No new members since the last update. The 2012 membership list on Google Docs is now in place.

3/9/12 Treasurer's Report

Mike presented the current state of the accounts at 12 September, showing a balance of £645.66. Phyl suggested that we could hold a raffle at the AGM to boost funds.

4/9/12 Research

Martin had analyzed the feedback forms sent out earlier in the year and fieldwalking was clearly top of the wish list.

As a consequence he had examined three fields close to the Bronze Age burial site on Brackenber Moor which had been recently ploughed and had obtained permission for the group to walk the fields on Saturday September 15th. All members who had previously expressed interest had been contacted. Carol and Martin J had agreed to lead the day and Phyl said that she might also be able to attend.

The planned survey of barrows on Brackenber Moor has been delayed until Martin has had discussions with Paul at the AONB, which may result in Altogether Archaeology involvement. The project is also expected to fund the post excavation costs of the Bronze Age cemetery remains.

5/9/12 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:-

Richard had received two copies of the CLHF Bulletin, both of which were passed to members of the committee.

Richard had received a letter from a Keith Cooper who was investigating some earthworks at Gt. Asby and had requested any assistance that we were able to give him. Harry Hawkins had been approached and had agreed to correspond with Mr Cooper.

Neither Phyl nor Richard had so far received an email edition of the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society Newsletter, despite having requested it after the May meeting. Phyl suggested that it might now be produced only three times a year and said that she would keep an eye on it. **(Phyl)**

Richard continues to receive various emails publicising events and is selecting only those considered of interest to the membership for circulation to the email list. There is very little incoming postal correspondence these days. Currently there are now only 8 members who cannot be reached by email and those members are contacted by post on matters directly concerning App Arch.

6/9/12 Programme

The winter programme shown in the May minutes was incorrect – some dates were transposed and some talk titles were wrong. However, all publicity including website, newsletters, information to external agencies etc. is correct, only the minutes were wrong. Richard apologized for the error. The circulated programme is attached.

Tony explained that he was short of photographs for illustrating the posters for some of the coming talks. Carol agreed to ask Erik Matthews if she could use a photograph of the cesspit and drainage at Hornby for Don's talk, Martin agreed to provide something for Samantha's talk on Brackenber.

It was suggested that a kind of 'welcome to the new season of talks' email could be sent round shortly before the October date. **(Richard)**

Regarding speakers for the member's evening following the AGM, it was suggested that the membership could be asked for volunteers at the October meeting. Ideas from the committee included Trish and Mick Yates on Papcastle and Carol on her recent trip to Kilmartin. Carol suggested that new member Elizabeth would probably be willing to talk about the interesting renovation of her house but it was thought unfair to ask her just after she had joined.

The three summer outings were all excellent trips and both Ninekirks and Mallerstang walks were well attended. Unfortunately, the turnout for Hornby was very disappointing. Only 5 members, three of them from the committee, making the effort, despite car share being arranged. Richard thought that this might be because it was 'real' archaeology, apparently not a high priority for many members.

7/9/12 AOB

The meeting returned to the possibility of organizing a trip further afield than the usual summer walks. It was agreed that the response, based on experience, was likely to be poor but that there was nothing to be lost by suggesting it to the AGM.

The subject of the Local Archaeology evening course to be given by Annie Hamilton-Gibney in Kirkby Stephen was discussed. It was agreed that in order to protect our interests there, we should raise and maintain our profile in the town. Tony suggested that the TIC, now run by volunteers, could be

approached and might be able to display a list of all App Arch events for the coming months, in addition to the usual poster for individual talks. **(Post meeting note: it would be helpful if some existing KS members could place publicity posters on some notice boards in larger villages around the town eg. Winton, Soulby and Brough Richard will contact Tony.)**

Heart of Eden. It was agreed that this is certainly a valuable means of keeping the group's activities prominent in the Eden Valley. Unfortunately, the coverage is variable. Phyl, who receives the newspaper, will continue to keep a watching brief on our entries in the 'What's on' listings.

Richard explained that he had attended the AGM of CBA North recently to find out what was happening with the regional group. It seems that CBA have cut off all funding to all regional groups, although still allowing members to pay an additional fee at renewal to maintain their membership. All groups are understandably upset by the move, which was made without consultation. Since all the regional groups relied on central funding from CBA, it seems likely that many of them will cease to exist. CBA North are holding an EGM later in the year and will inform App. Arch. of the outcome.

Mike pointed out that the insurance policy is shortly due for renewal.

Date and Time of next meeting **Thursday December 6th at 7.30pm**, at The White House, Brampton.

RS 16/9/2012